

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/090,358 06/04/98 LOPRETE J 60.298-038

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CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.  
400 WEST MAPLE, SUITE 350  
BIRMINGHAM MI 48009

 EXAMINER

TORRENTE, D

 ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER3746 13

DATE MAILED: 10/20/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

Art Unit: 3746

1. The reply brief filed 5 October 2000 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Torrente whose telephone number is (703) 306-5535. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy S. Thorpe can be reached on (703) 308-0102. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7764 for regular communications and (703) 308-7763 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

DJT  
October 11, 2000

  
CHARLES G. FREAR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER